CLAIM AMENDMENTS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** ~~**Method**~~ **A method** for commutating ~~**the**~~ at least one phase ~~**(Pi)**~~ of an electric motor ~~**(1)**~~, in which ~~**the**~~ **a** commutation angle ~~**(α)**~~ of the **at least one** phase or of each phase ~~**(Pi)**~~ is continuously varied as a function of ~~**the**~~ **a** rotary frequency ~~**(f)**~~ of ~~**the**~~ **an** electromagnetic energizing field ~~**(F)**~~ of the electric motor ~~**(1)**~~ and/or of an adjustable variable ~~**(S)**~~ for the drive power,

~~**characterized in that**~~ **wherein** a full cycle ~~**(10)**~~ of the energizing field ~~**(F)**~~ is divided into a number ~~**(n)**~~ of zones ~~**(Zi)**~~ and the **at least one** phase or each phase ~~**(Pi)**~~ is commutated in accordance with a control pattern ~~**(12,12')**~~ stored depending on these zones ~~**(Zi)**~~ with ~~**the**~~ **an** angular extent ~~**(δ1,δ2)**~~ of at least two zones ~~**(Zi)**~~ being varied for setting the commutation angle ~~**(a)**~~.

2. **(Currently Amended)** ~~**Method**~~ **A method** in accordance with claim 1, ~~**characterized in that**~~ **wherein** the full cycle ~~**(1)**~~ is divided into alternating consecutive zones ~~**(Z1)**~~ of a first group and zones ~~**(Zm)**~~ of a second group, with zones ~~**(Z1, Zm)**~~ of the same group each featuring the same angular extent ~~**(δ1,δ2)**~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** ~~**Method**~~ **A method** in accordance with claim 2, ~~**characterized in that**~~ **wherein** the **at least one** phase or each phase ~~(Pi)~~ is activated via an odd number ~~(m)~~ of consecutive zones ~~(Zi)~~.

4. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein** ~~**Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that**~~ the commutation angle ~~(a)~~ is varied between a minimum value corresponding to a low speed ~~(f)~~ and/or power and maximum value corresponding to a high speed ~~(f)~~ and/or power.

5. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein** ~~**Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that**~~ the characteristic variable ~~(S)~~ for the power ~~()~~ included for adjusting the commutation angle ~~(α)~~ is derived on the basis of the rotary frequency ~~(f)~~ and an associated required value ~~(f0)~~.

6. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein**~~**Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that**~~, the phase **at least one** or each phase ~~(Pi)~~ is activated pulse-width modulated depending on the rotary frequency ~~(f)~~ of the energizing field ~~(F)~~ and/or the adjustable variable ~~(S)~~.

7. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein**~~**Method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that**~~, in a low-performance range~~ (1)~~ identified by a low value of the rotary frequency~~ (f)~~ or adjustable variable~~ (S)~~ with a constant commutation angle~~ (α)~~ the phase or each phase~~ (Pi)~~ is activated pulse-width modulated and in a mid performance range~~ (21)~~ identified by a high value of the rotary frequency~~ (f)~~ or adjustable variable ~~(S)~~ the commutation angle~~ (α)~~ is varied.

8. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein** ~~**Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that**~~ the phase or each phase~~ (Pi)~~ is activated in a unipolar manner.

9. **(Currently Amended)** **A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein** ~~**Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that**~~ the phase or each phase~~ (Pi)~~ is activated in a bipolar manner.

10. **(Currently Amended)** ~~D~~A device~~ (9)~~ for commutating ~~the~~ at least one phase~~ (Pi)~~ of an electric motor~~ (1)~~, with a converter~~ (5)~~ and a control unit~~ (6)~~ for the converter~~ (5)~~, ~~**which is embodied**~~ **the control unit being operable** to execute the method in accordance with ~~one of the claims 1 to 9~~**claim 1**.

11. **(Currently Amended)** ~~D~~A d‌evice ~~(9)~~ in accordance with Claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ **further comprising** a sensor ~~(8)~~ which determines the orientation and/or the rotary frequency ~~(f)~~ of the energizing field ~~(F)~~ feeds it to the control unit ~~(6)~~ as an input variable.